

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Transportation Issues in Indian Country.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Dirty Bomb Vulnerabilities: Fake Companies, Fake Licenses, Real Consequences." The Subcommittee's hearing will examine certain vulnerabilities in the Government's procedures for licensing radiological materials. This hearing builds upon the findings released at the Subcommittee's hearing on March 28, 2006, which examined certain flaws in U.S. safeguards against radiological and nuclear attacks. Specifically, the hearing will examine the effectiveness of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's materials licensing policies and procedures, including: (1) The process by which parties obtain NRC materials licenses; and (2) the vulnerability of NRC materials licenses to counterfeiting. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives of the Government Accountability Office and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A final witness list will be available Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 9 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, July 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Excessive Speculation In The Natural Gas Market."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that Jacqueline Beatty-Smith, a fellow in my office, be granted the privileges

of the floor during consideration of H.R. 1585.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator CLINTON, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following fellows in her office during consideration of H.R. 1585: Jaime Martinez, Nicole Wilett, and Eleanor Edson.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Carlton, a Marine Corps Fellow in Senator KENNEDY's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of H.R. 1585, the Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on the Defense bill, I ask unanimous consent that Scott Suozzi, a military fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEARY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that LCDR Christopher Martin, a U.S. Coast Guard fellow in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of debate on H.R. 1585, the national Defense authorization bill, and for votes during that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeffrey Gonzalez and Mathew Pollard, both of the Senate Budget Committee, be granted floor privileges during consideration of H.R. 1585.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to allow Air Force Fellow Daniel Wolf of my staff floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, S. 1547.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHARLES W. NORWOOD LIVING ORGAN DONATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 77, H.R. 710.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 710) to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to paired donation of human kidneys, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this bipartisan substitute is nearly identical to S.487, which I introduced along with Senators BOND, DORGAN, GRAHAM, DURBIN, MIKULSKI, PRYOR, CARDIN, ISAKSON, COLEMAN, BROWN, and CHAMBLISS, and which passed the Senate on February 15, 2007. Companion legislation was introduced in the House where it was renamed in honor of our House colleague, the late Representative Charles Norwood, a longtime advocate of organ donation, who sponsored the legislation earlier this year along with Representative JAY INSLEE.

Our legislation, the Living Kidney Organ Donation Clarification Act, will save lives by increasing the number of kidneys available for transplantation through a process called paired organ donation. It addresses this relatively new procedure, which is supported by numerous medical organizations, including the United Network for Organ Sharing, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the American Society of Transplantation, the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology. Paired organ donation, which did not exist when the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA, was enacted more than two decades ago, will make it possible for thousands of people who wish to donate a kidney to a spouse, family member or friend, but find that they are medically incompatible, to still become living kidney donors.

The legislation is necessary because the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA, which contains a prohibition intended by Congress to preclude purchasing organs, is unintentionally impeding the facilitation of matching incompatible pairs. Our legislation would simply add kidney paired donation to the list of other living-related donation exemptions that Congress originally placed in NOTA. It removes an unintended impediment to kidney paired donations by clarifying ambiguous language in section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA. That section has been interpreted by a number of transplant centers to prohibit such donations. In section 301 of NOTA, Congress prohibited the buying and selling of organs. Subsection (a), titled "Prohibition of organ purchases," says: "It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human organ for valuable consideration. . . ." This legislation does not remove or alter any current provision of NOTA, but simply adds a line to section 301 which states that paired donations do not violate it.

Congress surely never intended that the living donation arrangements that permit kidney paired donation be impeded by NOTA. Our bill simply makes that clear. Some transplant professionals involved in these and other innovative living kidney donation arrangements have proceeded in the reasonable belief that these arrangements do not violate section of 301 of NOTA, but they contend that they are doing so under a cloud.